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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

27 December 1946

CONTENT: Palestine

SUBJECT: Suspension of Arab Higher Executive

DATE OF INFORMATION: 28 October 1946

EVALUATION: Documentary

The following is a translation of a dispatch dated 27 October 1946 from the Lebanese Consul General in Jerusalem to the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which was received from a British source:

1. "The Hatti, wishing to enlarge the High Arab Committee and to increase its 'branches' in neighboring countries, has chosen twenty people belonging to all parties. The following are said to be among the new additions:

Dr. Fawzi Niyal of the Jaffa Municipality;  
Fawzi Sa'd, Manager of the Arab Bank, Haifa;  
Ahmed Shugayri, head of the Arab Bureau, Jerusalem;  
Dr. Umar al-Shalil.

2. "All the above belong to the Arab Popular Party (al-Hizb al-Sha'bi), under Ahmed Shugayri. As regards the left wing, it is said that the candidate is Khalil Badayri, the Communist Party leader; Sami Taha for the Labor Party, and Haidi Ismail of Damascus.

Washington Comment: It is believed that the High Arab Committee referred to in the letter is the Arab Higher Executive. See 25-1415 of 25 October 1946 which is concerned with the formation of the new Arab Committee. See also 25-1414, disseminated on 13 December 1946, which lists the likely candidates for the active positions on this Committee, two of whom mentioned were Badayri and Taha.

3. "It is reported that Husayn Khalidi and Ahmed Hilal Facha are in constant disagreement with Fawzi al-Shugayri and Haidi Ismail. Khalidi and Hilal Facha do not attend Committee meetings, and when they want to consult the Hatti in Egypt, they go alone. I have learned that about a month ago al-Shugayri suggested that every member of the Committee should draw a salary of 12,000 per month, and should have a bodyguard. The suggestion was opposed by Khalidi and Hilal Facha on the grounds that patriotic actions should not be paid for. It is now reported that both Hilal and Khalidi will resign, the former to look after his work at the Bank al-Bina and the latter to start work on the hospital given by Amir Khalidi.

25-1414

SECRET-GENERAL U.S. EYES ONLY

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27 December 1946

SUBJECT: Expansion of Arab Higher Committee

Washington Comments: See ID-346, disseminated on 13 December, which states that there are no ties connected with personal efforts to take an active part in the AGCM. The late action Enklati was a relative of Husayn Enklati.

b. "A well-informed source has told me that the HAFI has asked Husayn al-Hakki and Ahmad Shajrat to withdraw from the active political field.

British Comments: Although the news in the dispatch to Baghdad, the embassy suggests the possibility that the Council General intended to write Husayn al-Hakki.

5. "The (the Council's source) believes that al-Hakki, the nephew of Izzat, King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan, and Husayn al-Hakki have been a united pro-British front working under British direction to try to kill the HAFI's influence in Arab countries, and to establish Husayn al-Hakki as a leader recognized by both the British and the Palestinians. Source added that during the Alexandria meeting the HAFI asked Husayn al-Hakki to resign, and threatened that if he did not do so, then he (the HAFI) would take steps. To this Husayn replied that he was prepared to discuss politics and take up residence in Lebanon, but he hoped the HAFI to postpone his decision until al-Hakki got back from Europe.

6. "The HAFI is insisting that the High Arab Committee must include all parties and have members in all the principal towns of Palestine, with two headquarters offices, one in Damascus and the other in Cairo near the Arab League headquarters. Source added that, if the political liberty is interfered with in 1946, the HAFI will go to live in Lebanon.

Washington Comments: See ID-345 of 2 December 1946 which stated that the Presidents of Lebanon and Syria had indicated to a reliable source that the HAFI would not be welcome in their countries.

SECURITY-CONTROL U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

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7. The Soviet has intervened this again in April, January, May, and February not to use violence against the British people because he thinks the Arab States are not prepared to hold out with Great Britain. It seems that he wants for improved relations with the people that the governments of the Arab States, because they would stop when the people, not the governments, would have the last word.

8. It is reported that all the old parties in Palestine will be dissolved on the formation of the new Committee and that all parties have agreed except the Arab Party. The Arab Party strongly opposed this step and wanted that no such dissolution should take place before the new Committee is fully formed, and that the Arab Party should have a representative in the new Committee.

12-4430

SECRET-CONTINUED U.S.-JOINT/REDAIS CASE

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